Patent Claims

1. A method for optimized tracking of an optical scanner along a track (1L, 1G) of an optical recording medium, the track (1L, 1G) having information markings (3) arranged in dense succession, and also having fundamental changes in properties (1L/1G, 1G/1L) in significantly lower density, **characterized by**

- formation of a track error signal (TE, TECL, PPTE)
- detection of the occurrence of fundamental changes in properties of the track (1L, 1G)
- formation of an offset value (TO) from the comparison of the value of the track error signal (TE, TECL, PPTE) that occurs shortly before and shortly after the fundamental change in properties
- formation of the track error signal (TE, TECL, PPTE), taking account of the offset value (TO) and
- repetition of the aforementioned steps.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the detection of the occurrence of fundamental changes in properties of the track (1L, 1G) is effected by detection of a header area.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that the track error signal (TE, TECL, PPTE) is formed by means of one of the tracking methods: push-pull method, three-beam method and differential push-pull

method.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized** in that a different signal that is impaired by the track offset (12) of the scanner is formed instead of the track error signal (TE, TECL, PPTE).

5. An apparatus for reading from and/or writing to optical recording media having tracks (1G, 1L) having information markings (3) arranged in dense succession, and fundamental changes in properties that occur in significantly lower density, the apparatus having a track control loop (9, PS, 15, 7) and a track property change detector (16, 17) **characterized** in that it has an offset value detector (19, 20, 21), which, in a manner dependent on a signal output by the track property change detector (16, 17), generates an offset value (TO) from a track error signal (PPTE) of the track control loop and feeds said offset value to the track control loop.